

We've been working our way through the Gospel of Luke, and it's been 4 weeks now (since I've preached), so I'd better give a little recap of where we're up to:

Up until this point, it's like Jesus' Disciples have been following Him, but they don't really know who He is... And it **can** be like that within the church today. There may even be some here today, who feel drawn to Jesus, and attracted to Jesus and His teachings, but they haven't fully grasped the mind-blowing significance of Who Jesus is (and what that means)... (because that's a life-changer...)

But Jesus keeps doing these amazing miracles (Healing the sick; raising the dead; casting out demons). And the Disciples have been witness to all this. Everything that Jesus has been doing, has been revealing His power and authority – He's been doing the sorts of things that only God can do.

And the point we're at now, Jesus has just asked His Disciples, who **they** reckon He is, and Peter said, "You are **the Christ of God**". But I wonder what Peter meant by that?

To be the Christ of God, is to be Messiah – the chosen one – the anointed one of God to be king... And so they're getting close, but they still don't understand the significance of what it **means** for Jesus to **be** the Christ of God...

For starters, you'd assume that if Jesus is the chosen one of God, then "WooHoo – Good times for Jesus... And you know what: we're on team Jesus, so good times for us too!!!"...

But Jesus put a bit of a dampener on things when He said:

"The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

And then He put more of a dampener on it:

"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

²⁵ For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? ²⁶ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

²⁷ But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."

They've been following Jesus, but now Jesus is talking about them losing their lives for following Him... Why would they

do that? Why would **we** do that??? Why would we remain faithful to Jesus (even if we're killed for doing it???)?

If Jesus was just a man (even if He was chosen by God), if Jesus was only a man, why would they do that???

And in Luke, it's at the transfiguration of Jesus, that the **glory** of Jesus is revealed. And it's here (at the transfiguration) that God speaks: "**This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!**"... Hmm... Jesus is much more than just a man.

It was about 8 days after Peter said "You're the Christ", that Jesus took 3 of His Disciples (Peter, James & John) up on to a mountain to pray... And there, they caught a little glimpse of the glory of the Kingdom of God that Jesus is talking about.

Righto, so they're up on the mountain, praying...

Does anyone here, when you set aside time for prayer, drift off into a bit of a kip??? And then you feel guilty, "I'm trying to pray, but I think I've had a little snooze." Well, you're in good company. The Disciples had a bit of a habit of drifting off when they're supposed to be praying...

And while they were having their little kip, that's when the exciting stuff happened. Jesus was transfigured. **the appearance of his face was altered** (Greek – Heteros (different)), and his clothing became dazzling white. *Whiter than the tee-shirt you've washed with Fab & put under a UV light...*

And Moses and Elijah appeared in glory and spoke to Jesus of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

Now, what is His “departure”? Is it His death on the cross? Or is it His ascension into heaven after He’s risen??? Well, I think it’s both of those things, but it’s even more than that.

Why the two prophets, Moses and Elijah? Why those two? They’re both there and alive. We know Moses died, but nobody could visit his grave because nobody knew where he was buried. God Himself buried him. Elijah didn’t die. Elijah was taken up in a whirlwind...

And yet here they both are, in glory. And we can learn from this: When the time of the resurrection comes, it doesn’t matter whether we’ve died, or whether we’re still alive when Jesus returns (buried/cremated/consumed by wild dogs). Those who have died (like Moses) will be raised. Those who are still alive, will be taken up (like Elijah was) to be with Him. And we will all be changed/transformed/glorified...

But why Moses and Elijah?

In Malachi 4, we’re told of the coming judgment of God. (And that’s a good thing). Some folk hate the thought of “judgment”, but we all cry out for justice, don’t we? So often, the evil seem to get away with their evil and no one holds them to account. And what do we do? We cry out for justice...

And so let's give thanks to God, that there is going to be a day when the evil **are** held to account... But Malachi also warns that if we don't remember the law of God's servant Moses, then we'd get caught up in that destruction.

And so in Malachi, we're promised that the judgment of God is coming, but also, before the Day of Judgment, Elijah the prophet would come and turn the hearts of parents and children...

John the Baptist took on the role of Elijah the prophet. He preached, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand." And Jesus continued the prophetic message of Elijah. He also preached: "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand."

So, that's the significance of Elijah – a message of repentance to prepare for the Day of Judgment. But what's the significance of Moses? Here's a little hint: Moses and Elijah spoke to Jesus of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

The original Greek word that is translated here as "departure", is "Exodos".

Moses led the people of Israel out of captivity in Egypt – that's what became known as "The Exodus".

And now Moses and Elijah are talking to Jesus about **His** exodus, which **He** is about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Right at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, He stood up in the

Synagogue and He read from Isaiah 61, and this sets the tone of Jesus' ministry:

**18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."**

Jesus' Exodus, is to set us free from the captivity of sin and death. And it was through the cross that He accomplished this.

And Peter, (unwittingly) also puts before us the Exodus theme.

When they woke up, they were all bleary-eyed,,, But then they were jolted awake – they saw the glory of Jesus, and Moses and Elijah with Him. And as Moses and Elijah were leaving, it's like they don't want them to go away – they want this experience of glory to go on and on, and Peter blurts out: "Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah"

But Luke also notes down here, that Peter didn't really know what he was saying...

Was it a silly hope of extending visit – “Oh, don’t go – let’s go camping”... Or was it more than that?

Once again, the Greek word for “tents” is “σκηνας” (skēnas), which in other places is translated as “tabernacles” or “booths”...

Now, this is a little test of how well we know our bibles. Have you heard of the feast of Tabernacles/booths???

Does anyone here like camping? I love camping – get out in the bush; live a bit simpler; and when you return home, you’re more thankful for what you have...

Well, once a year, all of Israel would go camping for a week. They’d leave their homes, and build themselves a little tent/booth/tabernacle (gunya made of branches), and they’d live in that for a week. It was a reminder for them of The Exodus / of their release from captivity. It was a reminder of the time they lived in tents as Moses led them out of Egypt and took them to the promised land...

Now, Peter didn’t know what he was saying, but can you see the significance of what he said???

The tents, are a reminder of the Exodus (where God set the captives free). Jesus is about to complete **His** exodus (That’s what Moses and Elijah have been talking to Jesus about). But Jesus is greater than Moses. At Mt Sinai, God spoke to

Moses, and He gave Moses words to speak to Israel (on God's behalf)...

But here, a cloud enveloped them, and God spoke out of the cloud:

"This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!"

No intermediary – listen to Jesus... Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus is God's Chosen One; **listen to him!"**

We're at a crucial point in the Gospel of Luke today. The Disciples have been following Jesus, but not really knowing who He is. But now they've **seen** His glory. They've met with Moses and Elijah. And it's been confirmed by the voice of God. Not only is Jesus the Messiah (as if a mere man could be chosen), God Himself has said: **"This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!"**

That's a game-changer...

Have you ever wondered why,, – if you've been a Christian for a while (or even if you've gone to church for a while), have you ever noticed that ,, (I don't want to sound elitist here, but there's sort of 2 versions of Christians)... – have you noticed that some, this Christianity thing is something that just gets tacked on to their life – they add a bit of God/faith to their life, but in other aspects, we're probably not that different to anybody else???

But then there's those **other** people who – Jesus is their everything.

- They **always** speak the Name of Jesus;
- Talking about **Him** is much more important than a footy Grand Final;

And their whole life reflects Jesus;

- Their lives are transformed;
-

They:

- love;
- generous;
- love His word;
- delight in Jesus;
- obedient to Jesus,

- And their faith costs them;

They sacrifice for Jesus;

- Live sacrificially;
- Give sacrificially;
- Worship sacrificially....

- Nothing else gets precedence – Jesus is their everything...

Now, let me tell you, “When we truly understand who Jesus is, That’s the game-changer!”

If Jesus truly is the Son of God – And He is;

If Jesus truly is the Chosen one of God – And He is;

Then He's the one we listen to;
He's the one we follow;
He's the one take up **our** cross (every day, being prepared to die for Jesus) – He's the one we follow like that...

We're not ashamed of Jesus. We've caught a glimpse of the glory of Jesus (when He was raised from the dead). And if we're not ashamed of Jesus, He won't be ashamed of us **when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.**

Who is Jesus to you?
And does your life reflect that that's who Jesus is?

I guess what I'm asking is:
Is Jesus and faith in Him, something that's tacked onto your life? Or is He truly Lord and Master?

Let's pray:

Lord Jesus Christ,
We worship You.

You indeed are the Son of God;
You are the Chosen One of God;
You are the God of all Glory.

Forgive us for when we have not listened to You;

Forgive us for when we have not left everything to
follow You; and
Forgive us for not loving You sacrificially,
For not being whole-hearted...

Oh Lord, we turn to You.

Make Your glory known to us;
Fill us with Your Holy Spirit;
Renew the fire in our bellies –
The passion we have for You.

For some of us, we commit for the first time;
For some of us, we re-commit ourselves to You.

May the glory of Jesus shine through, in our lives.
In our love for You;
In our worship of You;
In our obedience to You and Your Word;

In every way, may You be glorified in us.

And Lord, we pray that You would be glorified in this
church,
As we gather together in the Name of Jesus,
Delighting in You, and
Delighting in the company/fellowship
of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Sentence: The cross, and the glory of Jesus.
Scripture: Luke 9:28-36
Location: St George

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In the glorious Name of Jesus,
Amen.